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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
January 19, 2021

NOTE: Today's Select Board meeting was held by teleconference and all Cornwall meetings will be held by teleconference until further notice.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Kemp, Ben Wood, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Mike Sunderland, Don Burns, Katherine Branch, Conor Stinson, Todd Kincaid, Jordan Young

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
Recording of meeting - announced
Quorum - established

AGENDA - Brian K. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified - adding two items: Discussion with Listers, and Discussion with Katherine Branch. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **January 1, 2021 Special Meeting**
- **January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- **January 12, 2021 Special Meeting**

Magna D. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the January 5th minutes as thus amended - in Maple Broadband update, delete incorrect information that a presentation has been scheduled in Bristol - and the January 1 and January 12 minutes as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Email from Peter Conlon regarding the role of the Cornwall newsletter and his concern about maintaining neutrality. After a short discussion, all agreed that the issue warranted a broader discussion and should be an agenda item at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Discussion with Listers** - Listers Todd Kincaid and Jordan Young discussed their intent to draft a letter to the head of Property Valuation and Review (PVR) requesting an appeal of the latest Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for Cornwall. Ben M. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to authorize the Listers to request an appeal of the CLA. Motion passed - 4 in favor. 0 opposed. Todd K. will get the letter to Ben M. by the end of this week for his signature. The Listers also advised that a re-appraisal will be needed in the near future. There are limited vendors to do a re-appraisal, and they are currently booked out 2-3 years, and the cost will be between \$60,000-80,000. The Board has not had a chance to review the written information that the Listers sent today regarding the CLA, and asked that that the Listers return on February 2 to discuss it - they agreed.
- **Discussion with Katherine Branch** - during its review of conservation funds in other towns, the Conservation Commission CCC has become aware that the written procedures that

Cornwall currently has for managing and disbursement of conservation funds could be improved. If the voters do approve an allocation for Cornwall's conservation fund, it would be timely to have better procedures in place. Katherine B. requested that a working group be formed, with representation from the CCC, Planning Commission, and Select Board, to look at 3-4 such documents from other towns, and draft a document that includes recommended changes to Cornwall's procedures. Magna D. agreed to be part of the working group. Ben M. will ask John R. if he would also like to participate, and if John R. declines, Ben M. said he would serve.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

Recent work has been focused on petitions, nominations, and Town Meeting matters.

ROAD COMMISSIONER / ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Michael Sunderland

- **Road Maintenance** - recent weather with periods of snow, rain, snow and more rain presented some challenges, but roads have been kept cleared.
- **Equipment** - new truck may have electrical issue, currently be worked on at Clarks.
- Ben M. said he did receive the draft of the Mutual Aid for Public Works agreement from Mike Winslow, and will forward to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Status of Maple Broadband (Addison County Communications Union District)** - Magna Dodge reported that the wifi hot spot signage for Cornwall has been delivered to Sue J. , for installation in the parking lot at the Town Hall. The Maple Broadband website is now expected to be up and running at the end of January, a bit later than previously reported. 2-hour preliminary interviews with potential vendors are underway. Presentations have been scheduled at the Economic Development Commission and the Middlebury Chamber of Commerce.
- **Discussion of Town Budgets for 2021-22** - the Board continued the review of the proposed Municipal and Highway budgets for 2021-22, with the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer. In response to Conor Stinson's question about the reserve account designated for municipal planning, it was agreed that the Town match for the recently awarded municipal planning grant could be appropriately drawn from that account when it comes time.
- **Discussion of Informational Meeting(s) preceding Town Meeting Australian Balloting**
The State requires at that least one informational meeting precede voting by Australian ballot in the 10 days prior to voting day. it was agreed that voters wanting to mail in their ballots would need sufficient time after the informational meeting, to do so. After discussion, Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to hold an informational meeting via Zoom, on Monday, February 22, preceding the town-wide vote by Australian Ballot on March 2. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Ben M. will ask Cy Tall if she would like to moderate the informational meeting. This will be a Special Meeting of the Select Board, with the Secretary Sharon Tierra taking the minutes. Ben M. said that he can increase the number of meeting attendees on the Town's zoom account, on a temporary basis.
- **Consideration of and vote on proposed consulting services agreement between the Town and Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC).** Conor Stinson reported that he, Ben Marks, and Don Burns met with Katie Raycroft-Meyer from ACRPC to discuss and agree upon the details of the contract, which has subsequently been distributed to the Select Board. Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the above contract between the Town of Cornwall and ACRPC. Ben M. will send the signed signature page to Adam Lougee, ACRPC Executive Director, tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Town Meeting Australian Balloting** - Sue J. said that the newsletter will have the Town Meeting warning, budgets and the Auditor's Report. She does not feel that the Town Report

hard copy has to be mailed. The tabulator will be used to tally votes, as decided by the Board in a prior meeting. Ben W. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to send ballots to all registered voters. After discussion it was agreed to table the motion until more information can be obtained.

OTHER BUSINESS

Capital Plan and Budget Hearing - will be warned for February 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Magna D. MOVED /Brian K. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board